



# STATE OF WISCONSIN

## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

### DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Brian M. Satula  
Administrator

Scott Walker  
Governor

## Be Ready for Wisconsin Tornadoes

Did you know that...

- Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually.
- In 2014, 22 tornadoes were reported in Wisconsin by the National Weather Service. Eighteen of those tornadoes occurred in June. The strongest tornado in 2014 occurred on June 17 when an EF 3 tornado hit Verona in Dane County. At least 30 homes were damaged as well as the Country View Elementary School. The tornado traveled about a mile, had wind speeds of 136 to 165 mph and was on the ground for several minutes. An EF 2 touched down that same night in Platteville in Grant County. Several homes and businesses were damaged including the University of Wisconsin–Platteville.
- In 2013, 16 tornadoes touched down in Wisconsin including six tornadoes during the overnight hours of August 6-7. An EF 2 struck near New London in Waupaca and Outagamie counties injuring two people and caused millions of dollars in damage.

## Tornado Safety at Home, Work, or at Play

In a home or building, avoid windows. Move to a basement, and get under a sturdy table or the stairs. If a basement is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and cover yourself with towels, blankets or pillows. If possible, get under a sturdy table, desk or counter. Put as many walls as possible between you and the storm. Wearing a bike helmet will help protect your head.

- If outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If you cannot get to shelter, stay in your vehicle with the seatbelt on and place your head below the windows. Do not seek shelter under an overpass.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. You should leave a mobile home and go to the designated storm shelter or the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building.
- At school, go to the interior hall or room. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from windows and large open rooms like gyms and auditoriums.



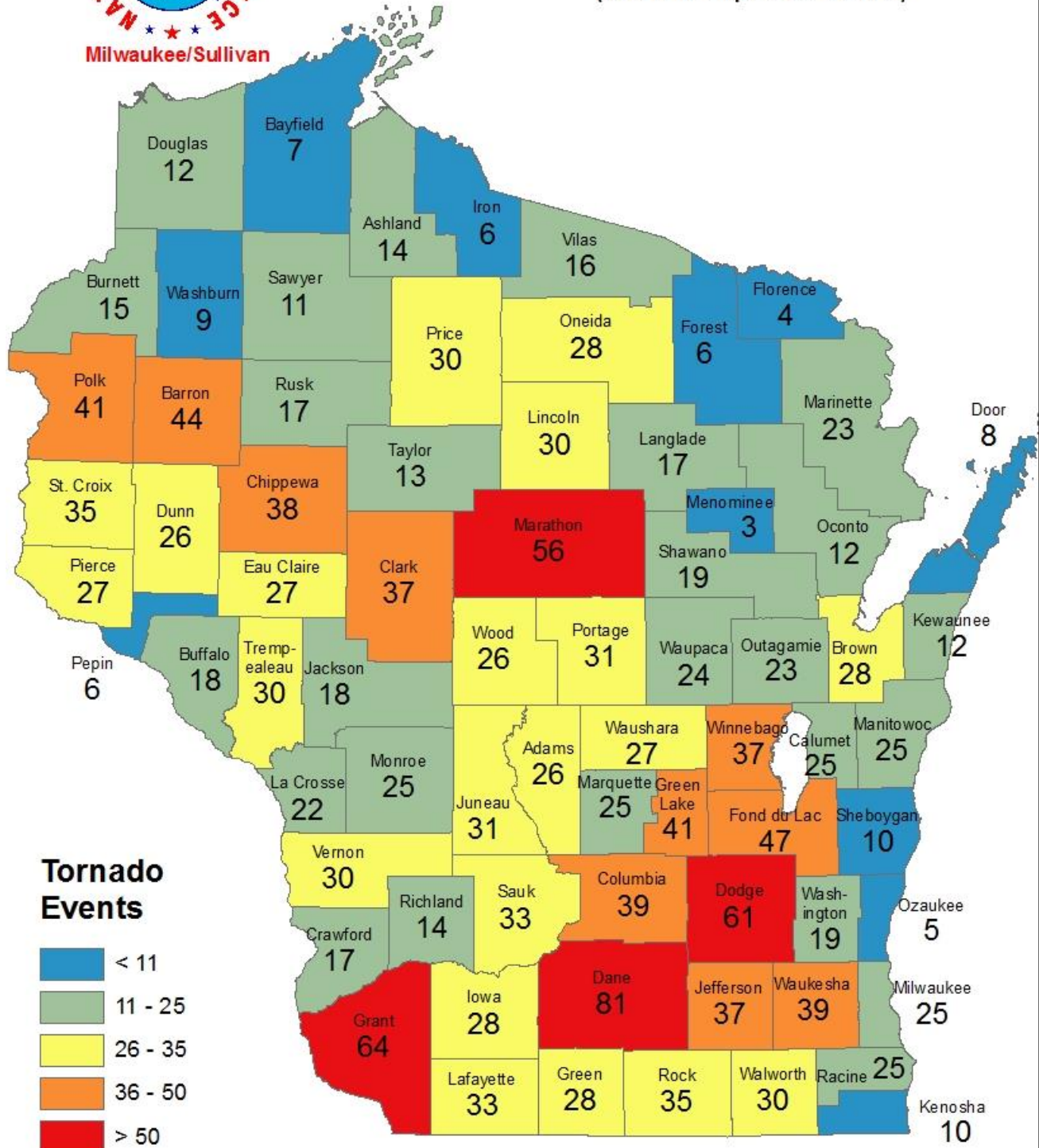
(June 17, 2014 – Governor Scott Walker tours damage left behind by an EF 3 tornado which hit Verona in Dane County. At least 30 homes were damaged as well as the Country View Elementary School.)

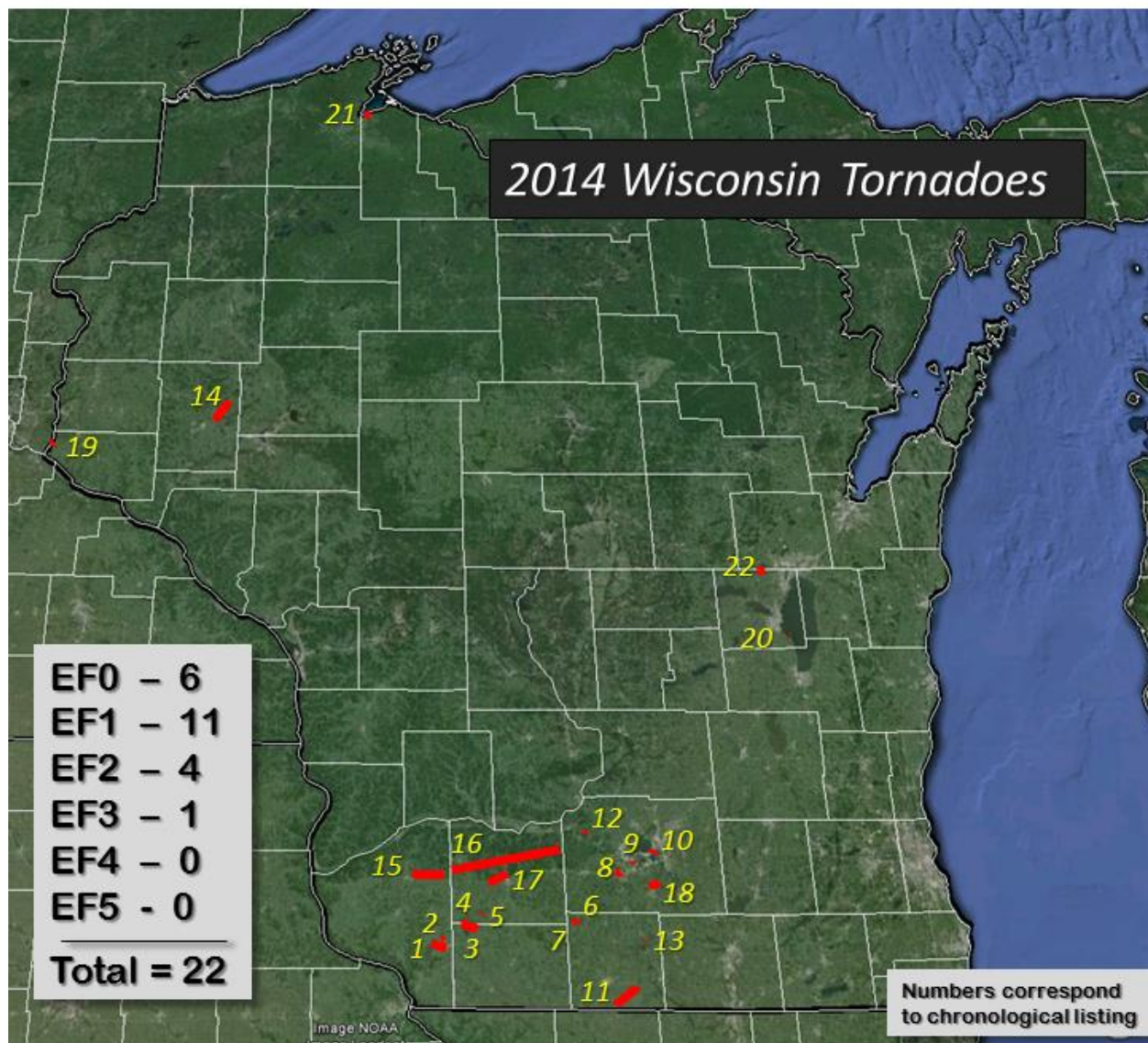


# Wisconsin Tornadoes

1844 - 2014

(Data is incomplete before 1950)





## Tornado Safety Before the Storm:

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and outdoors. Know the safest shelter areas in multiple locations.
- Have frequent drills.
- Keep a disaster supply kit in your home including water, food that won't spoil and needs no heat to serve, first-aid kit, NOAA weather radio (also known as an emergency weather radio), a flashlight and special items for children, pets and elderly family members.
- Be sure your weather radio is working properly. Spring is a great time to install fresh batteries.

**Tornado Watch:** Severe thunderstorms with tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Be prepared to move to safety if a **Warning** is issued. Know what counties are in the watch area by listening to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards or local radio or television stations.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Thunderstorms with large hail and damaging winds are possible. Be prepared to move to safety if a **Warning** is issued.

**Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Move to a place of safety now!

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** A thunderstorm with large hail and damaging winds has been reported or indicated by weather radar.

*Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm!*

Additional maps and information are also posted at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. If you need further information, please contact your county or tribal emergency management director or Tod Pritchard at [tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov](mailto:tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov) or 608-242-3324.

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